

**METHOD, SYSTEM, AND PRODUCT FOR PRE-ENCRYPTING STATIC
INFORMATION TRANSMITTED BY SECURE WEB SITES**

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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1. Technical Field:

The present invention relates generally to the field of computer systems and, more specifically to a data processing system, method, and product for pre-encrypting static information transmitted by secure Web sites.

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2. Description of Related Art:

The Internet, also referred to as an "internetwork", is a set of computer networks, possibly dissimilar, joined together by means of gateways that handle data transfer and the conversion of messages from the sending network to the protocols used by the receiving network (with packets if necessary). When capitalized, the term "Internet" refers to the collection of networks and gateways that use the TCP/IP suite of protocols.

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The Internet has become a cultural fixture as a source of both information and entertainment. Many businesses are creating Internet sites as an integral part of their marketing efforts, informing consumers of the products or services offered by the business or providing other information seeking to engender brand loyalty. Many federal, state, and local government agencies are also employing Internet sites for informational purposes, particularly agencies, such as the Internal Revenue Service and secretaries of state, which must interact with virtually all segments of society. Providing informational guides and/or

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searchable databases of online public records may reduce operating costs. Further, the Internet is becoming increasingly popular as a medium for commercial transactions.

5 The Internet includes the World Wide Web. Web-based applications, executed by server computer systems, may be accessed by client computer systems. In order to access a Web-based application, a user first must establish an Internet connection. The user may then specify a URL
10 (uniform resource locator) of a particular Web page. A Web page includes an HTML file and associated files for displaying images, such as graphics images.

Each Web page may contain text, graphics, images, sound, multimedia files, links to other Web pages, and
15 any other type of electronic information. The server computer system does not typically store all of the components of a Web page in one single file. Instead, the server stores code in the HTML file which can be used by a client's Web browser in order to build the page.
20 The server, thus, stores references to enable the browser to find the files that are needed to display the various text and images which then make up the Web page.

Many Internet Web sites encrypt the data transmitted between the site's server computer system and the user's
25 client computer system, and, therefore, are considered to be "secure" sites. The Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) is a commonly-used protocol that describes the security used to transmit data from a secure site via the Internet. The SSL protocol includes a record layer which is
30 responsible for encrypting and transmitting data.

Secure sites encrypt all data transferred to the client computer systems. Therefore, when a client's

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browser requests a particular page, all of the information needed to create the page is encrypted and then transmitted to the client's browser. All of the information is encrypted each time it is requested.

5 Encrypting all of the data each time a Web page is requested is often unnecessary. The percentage of the Web page including information that should be encrypted may be small. Many Web pages include various marketing information and logos that are not unique to any
10 particular page, are not security sensitive, and do not change frequently. For example, company logo images do not often change.

 The known systems described above encrypt the non-sensitive and static data along with the security
15 sensitive data each time the information is transmitted to a client. This is unnecessary and can be very time-consuming.

 Therefore, a need exists for a method, system, and product whereby a secure Web site stored pre-encrypted
20 static information. The Web site then encrypts dynamically-changing information in response to each request, and bypasses the encryption step for the static information that has been pre-encrypted.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A data processing system, method, and product are disclosed for pre-encrypting static information
5 transmitted by secure Web sites. The data processing system includes a server computer system coupled to a client computer system utilizing a network. The server computer system receives a request from a client for a secure Web page that is maintained by a secure Web site
10 within the server. Because the Web page is maintained by a secure Web site, a security session is established between the client and server. A cache is associated with this session.

The secure Web page includes dynamically-changing
15 information and static information. The server encrypts and then transmits the encrypted dynamically-changing information. For the static information, the server first checks the current session's cache to determine whether a pre-encrypted version of the static information
20 is already stored in the cache. If a pre-encrypted version is found in the cache, the server bypasses the encryption step and then transmits the pre-encrypted version of the static information. If a pre-encrypted version of the static information has not already been
25 stored in the cache, the server encrypts the static information, transmits the encrypted static information, and stores the encrypted static information in the cache for future use.

The above as well as additional objectives,
30 features, and advantages of the present invention will become apparent in the following detailed written description.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The novel features believed characteristic of the invention are set forth in the appended claims. The invention itself, however, as well as a preferred mode of use, further objectives and advantages thereof, will best be understood by reference to the following detailed description of an illustrative embodiment when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

10 **Figure 1** is a pictorial representation which depicts a data processing system in which the present invention may be implemented in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

15 **Figure 2** illustrates a block diagram of a computer system which may be utilized as a server computer system in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 3 depicts a block diagram of a computer system which may be utilized as a client computer system in accordance with the present invention;

20 **Figure 4** depicts a high level flow chart which illustrates a process executing within a server computer system for transmitting pre-encrypted data in accordance with the present invention;

25 **Figure 5** illustrates a high level flow chart which depicts a secure sockets layer (SSL) record layer, that is being executed within a server computer system, transmitting pre-encrypted data in accordance with the present invention; and

30 **Figure 6** illustrates a high level flow chart which depicts a process executing within a client computer system for requesting, receiving, and displaying a Web page in accordance with the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

A preferred embodiment of the present invention and its advantages are better understood by referring to the
5 figures, like numerals being used for like and corresponding parts of the accompanying figures.

The invention is preferably realized using a well-known computing platform, such as an IBM RS/6000 server running the IBM AIX operating system. However, it
10 may be realized in other popular computer system platforms, such as an IBM personal computer running the Microsoft Windows operating system or a Sun Microsystems workstation running operating systems such as UNIX or LINUX, without departing from the spirit and scope of the
15 invention.

With reference now to the figures, **Figure 1** depicts a pictorial representation of a network of data processing systems in which the present invention may be implemented. Network data processing system **100** is a
20 network of computers in which the present invention may be implemented. Network data processing system **100** contains a network **102**, which is the medium used to provide communications links between various devices and computers connected together within network data
25 processing system **100**. Network **102** may include connections, such as wire, wireless communication links, or fiber optic cables.

In the depicted example, a server **104** is connected to network **102** along with storage unit **106**. In addition,
30 clients **108**, **110**, and **112** also are connected to network **102**. Network **102** may include permanent connections, such as wire or fiber optic cables, or temporary connections

made through telephone connections. The communications network **102** also can include other public and/or private wide area networks, local area networks, wireless networks, data communication networks or connections, intranets, routers, satellite links, microwave links, cellular or telephone networks, radio links, fiber optic transmission lines, ISDN lines, T1 lines, DSL, etc. In some embodiments, a user device may be connected directly to a server **104** without departing from the scope of the present invention. Moreover, as used herein, communications include those enabled by wired or wireless technology.

Clients **108**, **110**, and **112** may be, for example, personal computers, portable computers, mobile or fixed user stations, workstations, network terminals or servers, cellular telephones, kiosks, dumb terminals, personal digital assistants, two-way pagers, smart phones, information appliances, or network computers. For purposes of this application, a network computer is any computer, coupled to a network, which receives a program or other application from another computer coupled to the network.

In the depicted example, server **104** provides data, such as boot files, operating system images, and applications to clients **108-112**. Clients **108**, **110**, and **112** are clients to server **104**. Network data processing system **100** may include additional servers, clients, and other devices not shown. In the depicted example, network data processing system **100** is the Internet with network **102** representing a worldwide collection of networks and gateways that use the TCP/IP suite of protocols to communicate with one another. At the heart

of the Internet is a backbone of high-speed data communication lines between major nodes or host computers, consisting of thousands of commercial, government, educational and other computer systems that
5 route data and messages. Of course, network data processing system **100** also may be implemented as a number of different types of networks, such as for example, an intranet, a local area network (LAN), or a wide area network (WAN). **Figure 1** is intended as an example, and
10 not as an architectural limitation for the present invention.

Referring to **Figure 2**, a block diagram of a data processing system that may be implemented as a server, such as server **104** in **Figure 1**, is depicted in accordance
15 with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. Data processing system **200** may be a symmetric multiprocessor (SMP) system including a plurality of processors **202** and **204** connected to system bus **206**. Alternatively, a single processor system may be employed.
20 Also connected to system bus **206** is memory controller/cache **208**, which provides an interface to local memory **209**. I/O bus bridge **210** is connected to system bus **206** and provides an interface to I/O bus **212**. Memory controller/cache **208** and I/O bus bridge **210** may be
25 integrated as depicted.

Peripheral component interconnect (PCI) bus bridge **214** connected to I/O bus **212** provides an interface to PCI local bus **216**. A number of modems may be connected to PCI bus **216**. Typical PCI bus implementations will
30 support four PCI expansion slots or add-in connectors. Communications links to network computers **108-112** in

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Figure 1 may be provided through modem **218** and network adapter **220** connected to PCI local bus **216** through add-in boards.

Additional PCI bus bridges **222** and **224** provide
5 interfaces for additional PCI buses **226** and **228**, from which additional modems or network adapters may be supported. In this manner, data processing system **200** allows connections to multiple network computers. A memory-mapped graphics adapter **230** and hard disk **232** may
10 also be connected to I/O bus **212** as depicted, either directly or indirectly.

Those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that the hardware depicted in **Figure 2** may vary. For example, other peripheral devices, such as optical disk
15 drives and the like, also may be used in addition to or in place of the hardware depicted. The depicted example is not meant to imply architectural limitations with respect to the present invention.

The data processing system depicted in **Figure 2** may
20 be, for example, an IBM RISC/System 6000 system, a product of International Business Machines Corporation in Armonk, New York, running the Advanced Interactive Executive (AIX) operating system.

With reference now to **Figure 3**, a block diagram
25 illustrating a data processing system is depicted in which the present invention may be implemented. Data processing system **300** is an example of a client computer. Data processing system **300** employs a peripheral component interconnect (PCI) local bus architecture. Although the
30 depicted example employs a PCI bus, other bus architectures such as Accelerated Graphics Port (AGP) and Industry Standard Architecture (ISA) may be used.

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Processor **302** and main memory **304** are connected to PCI local bus **306** through PCI bridge **308**. PCI bridge **308** also may include an integrated memory controller and cache memory for processor **302**. Additional connections

5 to PCI local bus **306** may be made through direct component interconnection or through add-in boards. In the depicted example, local area network (LAN) adapter **310**, SCSI host bus adapter **312**, and expansion bus interface **314** are connected to PCI local bus **306** by direct

10 component connection. In contrast, audio adapter **316**, graphics adapter **318**, and audio/video adapter **319** are connected to PCI local bus **306** by add-in boards inserted into expansion slots. Expansion bus interface **314** provides a connection for a keyboard and mouse adapter

15 **320**, modem **322**, and additional memory **324**. Small computer system interface (SCSI) host bus adapter **312** provides a connection for hard disk drive **326**, tape drive **328**, and CD-ROM drive **330**. Typical PCI local bus implementations will support three or four PCI expansion

20 slots or add-in connectors.

An operating system runs on processor **302** and is used to coordinate and provide control of various components within data processing system **300** in **Figure 3**. The operating system may be a commercially available

25 operating system, such as Windows 2000, which is available from Microsoft Corporation. An object oriented programming system such as Java may run in conjunction with the operating system and provide calls to the operating system from Java programs or applications

30 executing on data processing system **300**. "Java" is a trademark of Sun Microsystems, Inc. Instructions for the

operating system, the object-oriented operating system, and applications or programs are located on storage devices, such as hard disk drive **326**, and may be loaded into main memory **304** for execution by processor **302**.

5 Those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that the hardware in **Figure 3** may vary depending on the implementation. Other internal hardware or peripheral devices, such as flash ROM (or equivalent nonvolatile memory) or optical disk drives and the like, may be used
10 in addition to or in place of the hardware depicted in **Figure 3**. Also, the processes of the present invention may be applied to a multiprocessor data processing system.

As another example, data processing system **300** may
15 be a stand-alone system configured to be bootable without relying on some type of network communication interface, whether or not data processing system **300** comprises some type of network communication interface. As a further example, data processing system **300** may be a Personal
20 Digital Assistant (PDA) device, which is configured with ROM and/or flash ROM in order to provide non-volatile memory for storing operating system files and/or user-generated data.

The depicted example in **Figure 3** and above-described
25 examples are not meant to imply architectural limitations. For example, data processing system **300** also may be a notebook computer or hand held computer in addition to taking the form of a PDA. Data processing system **300** also may be a kiosk or a Web appliance.

30 Each Web page may contain text, graphics, images, sound, multimedia files, links to other Web pages, and any other type of electronic information. The server

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computer system stores code in an HTML file which is used by a client's Web browser in order to build the page.

When the user requests a particular page, the user types in the page URL. This HTML file is then returned to the

5 browser. The HTML file tells the browser where to find the necessary components of the page, such as text files, image files, etc., as well as how to build the page. The flowcharts below describe the process used to obtain and display each component of a Web page.

10 **Figure 4** depicts a high level flow chart which illustrates a process executing within a server computer system for transmitting pre-encrypted data in accordance with the present invention. The process starts as depicted by block **400** and thereafter passes to block **402**
15 which illustrates a server computer system receiving a request for a secure URL. Next, block **404** depicts the server establishing an SSL session with the client. An encryption key is established and associated with this session. Once an SSL session is established, all data
20 transmitted by the server to the client will be encrypted, either pre-encrypted or encrypted at the time of transmission.

The process then passes to block **406** which illustrates the server establishing a cache which is
25 associated with this session. A separate cache is established within the server for each session. Therefore, each session has an associated cache. Block **408**, then, depicts the server transmitting information from an HTML file associated with this page to the client
30 about how to build and display the secure Web page that the client requested. This information includes information about images that are to be displayed as part

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of the requested Web page.

The process then passes to block **410** which illustrates the server receiving a request for an image which is a component of the requested Web page. Next, 5 block **412** depicts the server checking the cache associated with this SSL session to determine whether a pre-encrypted version of the image is already stored in the cache. If the image is static and has been requested before during this session, a pre-encrypted version of 10 the image will already be stored in the session's cache. If the image is static and has not been requested before during this session or if the image is dynamically-changing, a pre-encrypted version will not be stored in the cache. Static information which changes 15 infrequently can be pre-encrypted and stored in the cache for future use. Block **414**, then, illustrates a determination of whether or not the server found a pre-encrypted version of the image in the cache. If a determination is made that the server did not find a 20 pre-encrypted version of the image in the cache, the process passes to block **422**.

Referring again to block **414**, if a determination is made that the server did find a pre-encrypted version of the image in the cache, the process passes to block **416** 25 which depicts the server sending this pre-encrypted version of the image to the SSL record layer. Next, block **418** illustrates a determination of whether or not the server received a notice from the SSL layer that the cache data, i.e. the pre-encrypted version of the image, 30 is invalid. If a determination is made that the server did not receive a notice that the cache data is invalid, i.e. the cache data is thus valid, the process passes to

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block **424**. Referring again to block **418**, if a determination is made that the server did receive a notice that the cache data is invalid, the process passes to block **420** which depicts the server flushing the cache that is associated with this SSL session.

The process then passes to block **422** which illustrates the server sending a non-encrypted version of the image to the SSL record layer. Next, block **424** illustrates a determination of whether or not the server has received a request for another image. If a determination is made that the server has received a request, the process passes back to block **412**. Referring again to block **424**, if a determination is made that the server has not received a request, the process passes to block **426**.

Figure 5 illustrates a high level flow chart which depicts a secure sockets layer (SSL) record layer, that is being executed within a server computer system, transmitting pre-encrypted data in accordance with the present invention. The process starts as depicted by block **500** and thereafter passes to block **502** which illustrates the SSL record layer receiving data, such as an image that is to be displayed as part of a Web page, to be transmitted. Next, the SSL record layer determines whether this data has already been encrypted. If a determination is made that the data has not been pre-encrypted, i.e. the data is not encrypted, the process passes to block **506** which illustrates the SSL record layer encrypting the data using the current session encryption key. Thereafter, block **508** depicts the SSL layer transmitting the encrypted data to the client. The process then passes back to block **502**.

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Referring again to block **504**, if the SSL record layer determines that the data has already been encrypted, the process passes to block **510** which illustrates the SSL record layer comparing the encryption key associated with this data with the encryption key currently being used for this SSL session. The process then passes to block **512** which depicts a determination of whether or not the keys are the same. The pre-encrypted image stored in this session's cache may have been encrypted using an encryption key that is different from the encryption key currently being used for this session. Each SSL session will have its own, unique encryption key. The SSL protocol permits the client and server to renegotiate the encryption key during the session such that a new, different encryption key will be used. The pre-encrypted image stored in the session's cache will have been encrypted with a particular encryption key. If the client and server have renegotiated a different encryption key, the cache data will be invalid because the encryption key used to pre-encrypt the image has changed.

If a determination is made that the keys are different, the process passes to block **514** which illustrates the SSL record layer notifying the server that the data is invalid. Next, block **516** depicts the SSL record layer discarding the data. The process then passes back to block **502**. Referring again to block **512**, if a determination is made that the keys are the same, the process passes to block **518** which illustrates the SSL record layer transmitting the pre-encrypted data to the client.

Figure 6 illustrates a high level flow chart which depicts a process executing within a client computer system for requesting, receiving, and displaying a Web page in accordance with the present invention. The process starts as depicted by block **600** and thereafter passes to block **602** which illustrates a client computer system requesting a secure Web page identified by a particular uniform resource locator (URL). The process then passes to block **604** which depicts a browser that is executing on the client transmitting the request for the Web page by transmitting the URL to the server computer system identified by the URL. Next, block **606** illustrates the client establishing a secure sockets layer (SSL) session with the server. A particular encryption key is established and associated with this session. The process then passes to block **608** which depicts the browser receiving information from the server. This information is the content of the HTML file which describes how to build and display the requested page and includes a listing of other URL's which must be accessed in order to display the images which are part of the page.

Block **610**, then, illustrates the browser requesting one of the images from the server. Next, block **612** depicts the client receiving the image. Thereafter, block **614** illustrates the client decrypting the image using the encryption key associated with this session. The process then passes to block **616** which depicts the browser displaying the decrypted image. Next, block **618** illustrates a determination of whether or not this image is the last image to be displayed for this Web page. If a determination is made that other images also need to be

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displayed for this Web page, the process passes back to block **610**. Referring again to block **618**, if a determination is made that there are no other images to be displayed, the process passes to block **620**.

5 It is important to note that while the present invention has been described in the context of a fully functioning data processing system, those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that the processes of the present invention are capable of being distributed in
10 the form of a computer readable medium of instructions and a variety of forms and that the present invention applies equally regardless of the particular type of signal bearing media actually used to carry out the distribution. Examples of computer readable media
15 include recordable-type media, such as a floppy disk, a hard disk drive, a RAM, CD-ROMs, DVD-ROMs, and transmission-type media, such as digital and analog communications links, wired or wireless communications links using transmission forms, such as, for example,
20 radio frequency and light wave transmissions. The computer readable media may take the form of coded formats that are decoded for actual use in a particular data processing system.

 The description of the present invention has been
25 presented for purposes of illustration and description, and is not intended to be exhaustive or limited to the invention in the form disclosed. Many modifications and variations will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art. The embodiment was chosen and described in
30 order to best explain the principles of the invention, the practical application, and to enable others of ordinary skill in the art to understand the invention for

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various embodiments with various modifications as are suited to the particular use contemplated.